

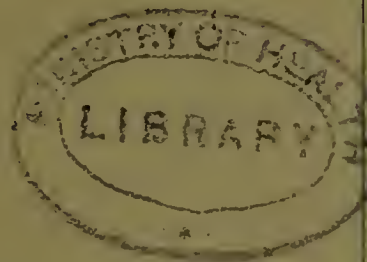
*Thomson*

**BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE



**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

**1955.**



1955

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

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*Mayor :*

COUNCILLOR T. E. HOLTON

*Deputy Mayor :*

ALDERMAN A. E. BUSBY

**Public Health Committee**

*(Full Council)*

Chairman: Alderman A. E. Busby, J.P.

Alderman The Rt. Hon. Lord Addington, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.

Alderman P. J. Small

Alderman S. G. Williams

Coun. J. S. Butler

Coun. R. J. W. Bodenham, J.P., M.A.

,, Rev. J. G. Campbell

,, T. Lambourne

,, J. Edmonds

,, Lieut.-Col. L. H. Worlledge

,, F. E. Y. Fleet

,, A. G. F. Marriott

,, H. E. Cornwall

,, A. M. Hudson

,, C. V. P. Airey

**Public Health Staff :**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.M.S. (Rtd).

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., and Wolverton U.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District, and Area Medical Officer for North Bucks).

*Sanitary Inspector :*

R. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A.

*Secretary :*

MISS A. CRANWELL.

# BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

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TOWN HALL,  
BUCKINGHAM.

July, 1956.

To the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors  
of the Borough of Buckingham.

Mr. Mayor, My Lord, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the Year 1955.

The Birth Rate shows a drop of just over 4 points from the previous year when it was at a very high level, and was the second highest of the 20 County Districts. The actual rate for 1955 was 14.7 against 15.4 for the County and 15.0 for England and Wales.

The Death Rate was lower than the previous year. Again, Heart Diseases, Cerebral Haemorrhage and Cancer accounted for the majority of the deaths. This group providing 35 out of a total of 48.

The Infantile Mortality rate shows a satisfactory drop. There was one death in this group.

In the realm of Infectious Disease one case of Anterior Poliomyelitis was notified during this year. It is heartening to report that at last a positive measure against this disease has emerged in the form of the new "Polio Vaccine." This vaccine which had been tried extensively in America, Canada, South Africa and Germany, was at last given the blessing of the Ministry of Health, and the "go ahead" was given for its introduction into this country. We were told that only a limited amount of the vaccine would be ready for use in 1956 before the beginning of what we now term the "Polio Season." That is from July to October. At the time of writing 184 children in the North Bucks Area have had the benefit of inoculation of which 14 came from Buckingham. We have been promised larger supplies in the late Autumn of 1956, and it is hoped that in time to come everybody will have the opportunity of getting the benefit of this protection against a disease, the epidemiology of which still puzzles Public Health Authorities.

I should like to record again my thanks to your Town Clerk, Mr. Archdeacon, your Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Rennie Taylor, and their staffs for their helpful co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON.

## A. Vital Statistics.

			1954	1955
Area (in acres)	...	...	5367	5367
Population	...	...	4090	*4120
Number of Inhabited Houses		...	1534	1548
Rateable Value	...	...	£26,307	£26,643
Rate per £1	...	...	27/-	27/-
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...		£108	£108

BIRTHS:	M.	F.		
Legitimate ...	26	28	68	54
Illegitimate ...	—	3	5	3
Birth rate per 1,000 population		...	19.0	14.7
„ „ „ (Bucks)		..	15.6	15.4
„ „ „ (England & Wales)			15.2	15.0
Still Births ...	...	...	Nil	Nil

	M.	F.			
DEATHS	...	32	16	51	48
Death rate per 1,000 population			...	11.2	10.5
„ „ „ (Bucks)			...	9.5	9.8
„ „ „ (England & Wales)				11.3	11.7
Maternal Mortality Rate	...		...	Nil	Nil
„ „ „ (Bucks)			...	0.47	0.31
„ „ „ (England & Wales)				—	0.64

### INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per				
1,000 live births	...	...	27.4	17.5
„ (Bucks)		...	22.4	20.0
„ (England & Wales)			25.5	24.9

\* Estimated Mid. 1955.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:				1954			1955		
				M	F	T	M	F	T
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	...	...	...	5	6	11	6	4	10
Diabetes	...	...	...	0	1	1	0	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	7	7	14	2	4	6
Heart Disease	...	...	...	9	6	15	13	6	19
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	0	0	0	2	0	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	0	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	0	3	1	0	1
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	0	1
Congenital Causes	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Violence	...	...	...	1	0	1	4	0	4
All other Causes	...	...	...	4	0	4	1	1	2
TOTALS				30	21	51	32	16	48

## B. General Provision of Health Services.

### 1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the laboratory at Oxford. The arrangement was satisfactory. Samples for chemical analysis have to be sent to Haywards Heath.

### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

These are administered direct from the County Health Department, Aylesbury. One sitting case car was stationed in Buckingham, and supplemented when necessary with ambulances from Bletchley.

### 3. NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nurses as always carried out their excellent work.

### 4. CLINICAL AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.—A Centre at the Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities of the Centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out therein and attendance has been satisfactory. Total attendance

of children throughout the year was 525. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to those ladies who give so much of their spare time in helping with this work. Diphtheria immunisations were also carried out in this Clinic.

(b) Orthopaedic Clinic.—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield Morris Hospital.

(c) Chest Clinic.—This self-contained unit, complete with X-ray, continues to do very good work. It is held once a week at 19, Stratford Road, and is attended by the Chest Physician.

## 5. HOSPITALS.

The following hospitals have received cases from this area :

1. Buckingham Hospital.
2. Aylesbury Isolation Hospital (Infectious cases).
3. Slade Hospital, Oxford.
4. Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
5. Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford.
6. Creton Sanatorium.
7. Royal Bucks.

## 6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service Act, is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service. During the year 21 cases were assisted.

## C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### 1. WATER.

The public water supply was maintained throughout the year satisfactorily as regards quantity, and the high bacteriological quality was maintained.

Waste water detection was carried out during the year, and the daily consumption averaged  $36\frac{1}{2}$  gallons per head of the population. The amount of water consumed during the year was 55,115,000 gallons and the amount pumped from the deep well was 42,174,000 gallons.

Eighteen bacteriological examinations were made on the raw water, and on the piped supply after treatment, all of which were satisfactory.

One chemical analysis was made which showed the following results:—



## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER.

		Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon
Total solids (dried at 180° C.)	... ..	48.0	33.6
Combined chlorine (Cl)	... ..	2.0	1.4
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride (Na Cl)		3.3	2.3
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates)	... ..	0.12	0.08
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites)	... ..	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	... ..	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen	... ..	0.0010	0.0007
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	... ..	0.011	0.008
Lead or Copper	... ..	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca Co <sub>3</sub> )		22.5	15.8
Permanent hardness ( " " " )		9.0	6.3
Total hardness ( " " " )		31.5	22.1

### 2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The two sewage works, one serving the Gawcott area and one the Buckingham area, have continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year.

The old works in Buckingham has maintained a fairly high standard of effluent.

It is hoped that a start on the new Works will be made before the Winter of 1956/57.

### 3. REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is collected once a fortnight in the Rural part of the area, and weekly in the built-up area.

Complaints regarding refuse collection are few and infrequent.

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, one tip being situated in the Bourton Road area and the other in the Gawcott area.

The Bourton Road refuse tip is filling rapidly, and it will shortly be necessary to find an alternative tip for the town refuse.

### 4. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Buckingham Swimming Pool experienced a highly successful season, this undoubtedly in some measure being due to one of the hottest summers enjoyed for many years.

Due to the heavy loading in the pool, improvements were made to the filtration system which has since proved highly satisfactory.

Full use of the pool was made by the Education Committee, no less than 6 schools taking advantage of the bathing facilities during the summer term.

### 5. FACTORIES.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported, and Factories Act Form 572 has been completed.



## 6. PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Public Mortuary, situated in this Council's yard, continued to serve the needs of the Borough and the Rural District.

### D. Housing.

During the year 17 families were re-housed and 12 new Council houses were completed and occupied during the year.

### E. Annual Report of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

I have pleasure in presenting a brief report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during 1955.

#### NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYE-LAWS, ETC.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	715
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint	...	...	16
Nuisances, etc., abated	...	...	693
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts			1
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts			55
Prosecutions	...	...	Nil

#### HOUSES AND PREMISES INSPECTED.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts were as follows:—

Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	5
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	12
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	17
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	150
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	35
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order	...	...	...	...	5
Infected house visits (excluding Tuberculosis cases)	...	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	92
					<hr/> 332 <hr/>

In addition to the above, visits were carried out under the Housing Act, Factories Act, Shops Act, Rats and Mice Destruction Act, and Petroleum Act, and Disinfestation of Vermin-infested properties.

#### HOUSING ACT, 1936.

30 houses have been scheduled for inclusion in Clearance Areas, or to be dealt with as individual unfit houses, during the next 5 years.

It should be appreciated of course that the ability to deal with these houses will depend largely upon the Council's Housing Committee being able to provide alternative accommodation on the housing estates for the displaced families.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Mechanical Factories on the Register	...	...	24
Non-mechanical Factories	...	...	2
Visits paid to Factories	...	...	16

#### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATION, 1949.

Retail premises and distributors continue to be under the control of this Council and are required to be registered and subject to periodic inspection.

Two large receiving depots in the district were visited from time to time during the year, and conditions found to be satisfactory.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD SUPPLY.

Two Slaughterhouses in Buckingham operate privately. Strict meat inspection routine, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Memo, 62, Foods, was carried out.

112 visits were made, and all animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption were examined. Numerous visits were made to other food premises for the inspection of unsound foodstuffs.

Approximately 152 Beasts, 613 Sheep, 14 Calves and 205 Pigs were slaughtered during the year.

#### PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit	...	29
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	...	15

#### RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ORDER, 1919.

#### RODENT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out:—

Number of complaints received	...	41
Number of premises treated for rats	...	57
Number of premises treated for mice	...	8
Estimated number of rats destroyed	...	264
Actual rats' bodies found	...	164
Visits for Inspection and Survey	...	80
Visits for Baiting and Extermination	...	181

RENNIE TAYLOR,  
*Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.*

## F. Prevalance of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

### 1. GENERAL.

Apart from 25 cases of Measles in May and June, and 1 case of Anterior Poliomyelitis, the incidence of infectious diseases was very low.

### 2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

					1954	1955
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	25
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	11	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Paral)	...	...	...	...	—	1

### 3. CANCER.

There were 10 deaths from this disease during the year.

### 4. TUBERCULOSIS.

Seven new cases were notified but it is satisfactory to note that there were no deaths. Two of the cases notified were transfers into the district.

D. H. WALDRON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

